

# Meet the Makers



## Madison Junior High School is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** a school of 612 students - making up a part of our Madison Consolidated Schools corporation of 2776 students. We are located in southern Indiana and our rural community of Madison has 12,000 residents. Currently, our town is one of eight finalists in the America's Best Communities competition.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** consist of 317 females and 292 males. 118 of our students have I.E.P.'s. 87% of our population is Caucasian, 2% is African American, 2% Asian, 5% Hispanic, 4% Multi-Racial. There is little racial diversity but tremendous economic diversity with 53% qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

**OUR TEACHERS** We have 34 highly qualified teachers who have participated in in-house training including critical close-reading, argumentative writing, using technology within the classroom, AVID, Socratic Seminars, Philosophical Chairs, and Universal Design for Learning. Additional trainings include Special Education Co-Teaching, C.L.A.S.S., Project Based Learning, Project Lead the Way, P.B.I.S., Pre-AP, ASCD, and Redesigning School Counseling.

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** *Meet the Makers* is a movement that incorporates all content areas to form an identity for our school. Students are encouraged to express individuality while being part of a larger, collaborative family. Students are Makers of English...Makers of Math...Makers of Art...Makers of Technology. Student-created art embellishes our hallways, walls, ceilings and water fountain stations. Our students have made physical improvements to our learning spaces through construction, upgraded plumbing, painting and creating stained glass. Two drama performances were presented this year with all of the scenery created by students. Cross-curricular planning has encouraged collaboration in argumentative writing and close reading initiatives so that students become proficient writers and readers in our core and non-core classes. Students are able to transfer their close reading skills to read musical selections and apply to other works of art.

**OUR STEPS** began as a branding initiative so that the junior high could be recognized for its accomplishments and creativity. It started with our fine arts department but now encompasses the STEAM initiative and beyond. We continue to add courses that support our pathways-Creative Dramatics, PLTW-Automation and Robotics, Coding and Web Design, Exploratory Chinese, and 2D/3D Art. Our commons areas have been transformed into active learning spaces where students can meet and collaborate on projects and assignments. Our Meet the Makers Night is our culminating experience open to the community. Art and science projects are on display, band and choir performs, there is a cabaret talent show, and our construction class creations are staged for demonstration. We continue to build community partnerships through Historic Madison, local artisans, and local businesses through weekly presentations and our career fair. To sustain the initiative, we are marketing through our website, apparel, car decals and signage, as well as community events.

### IN OUR OWN WORDS

**Eric Phagan, Art Teacher**, "Meet the Makers allows students to become a part of something they can take pride in as a part of their school."

**Melanie Torline, Art & Creative Dramatics Teacher**, "Meet the Makers provides students with a sense of intrinsic motivation to succeed in their classroom endeavors and in the real world."

**Keara Eder, 6th grade**, "Meet the Makers taught me to overcome my fears at MJHS. It helped me figure out what I want to do here at school instead of letting my fears take control of me."

**Elly Houston, 7th grade**, "Meet the Makers inspired me to do much better in school. It helped me remember problem solving. It makes me happier to know that it's making MJHS a better place."

**Jenna Wilson, 8th grade**, "Meet the Makers is about our individuality and showing our pride with our creations around our building." **Jacob Smith, Grade 8**, "Our school is so inviting and welcoming. It is definitely a place where everyone wants to be."

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Jill Mires, Principal, at [jmires@madison.k12.in.us](mailto:jmires@madison.k12.in.us) or visit our website: <http://mjhs.madison.k12.in.us/>